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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
24 August 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: The Vargas Suicide and the New Brazilian President

The "resignation" and suicide on 24 August of President Getúlio Vargas of Brazil brings Vice President João Café Filho to the presidency. Vargas apparently decided to resign under pressure of the armed forces and from important politicians including two former presidents--Artur Bernardes and Eurico Gaspar Dutra--following the brutal slaying of an airforce major and the wounding of the popular anti-Vargas newspaper editor, Carlos Lacerda.

Café Filho has risen in the field of politics as the result of opportunistic "politicking." In 1945 he supported the Communist candidate for the presidency in order to gain the Communist vote for his own candidacy to the Federal Chamber of Deputies. During the past few years, however, he is not known to have been connected with any Communists or Communist front organizations. Café Filho is not a member of Vargas' Brazilian Labor Party, but rather is a member of the Popular Socialist Party headed by the well-known demagogue Adhemar de Barros, erstwhile contender for a nomination for the presidency.

Because of his background, it can be expected that the armed forces will keep a close watch on Café Filho and the he will go along with the demands of the armed forces. The government in Brazil will continue to be conservative, anti-Communist and pro-United States.

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HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON  
Assistant Director  
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Orig: WESTERN DIV

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